secondary password, since he/she has no knowledge of the secondary password especially for this removed secondary memory 6. Thus, the random secondary password input here cannot match with the secondary password stored in the nonvolatile memory 5 and the secondary memory 6 except for an accidental case. The state of the system hence goes on to the startup-process interrupting step 210, where the input of random passwords result in interrupting the starting process of the entire information processing system or the main unit of the information processor. Accordingly, this contrivance protects the information kept in the removed secondary memory from unfair use.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 18, 21, 23, 24, 27 and 28 and add claims 29-38 as follows:

3. (Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
said main unit of the information processor further comprises an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether or not an input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

a startup condition for said main unit of the information processor is satisfied when a detected result of said input means connection detection means indicates no connection.

6.(Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 4, further having an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether said input means is connected, wherein

a security unlock condition is satisfied when a result detected by said input means connection detecting means indicates no connection.

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8.(Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said startup password request means includes a display means.

9.(Amended) The information processing system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said secondary password request means includes a display means.

18.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

detecting whether or not said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

starting said main unit of the information processor under a condition that said detected result indicates said input means not in connection thereto.

21.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

storing a security unlock condition for unlocking protection of said secondary password for said secondary memory irrespective of presence or absence of a secondary password;

determining whether said security unlock condition is satisfied; and

unlocking the protection of said secondary password if said security unlock condition is satisfied.

23.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a startup password in a display screen.

24.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a secondary password in a display screen.

27.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a startup password with vocal sound.

28.(Amended) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a secondary password with vocal sound.

Please add the following new claims:

29. (New)   The information processing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said main unit of the information processor further comprises an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether or not an input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

a startup condition for said main unit of the information processor is satisfied when a detected result of said input means connection detection means indicates no connection.

30.(New) The information processing system as set forth in claim 5, further having an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether said input means is connected, wherein

a security unlock condition is satisfied when a result detected by said input means connection detecting means indicates no connection.

31.(New) The information processing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said startup password request means includes a display means.

32.(New) The information processing system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said secondary password request means includes a display means.

33.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

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detecting whether or not said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

starting said main unit of the information processor under a condition that said detected result indicates said input means not in connection thereto.

34.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

storing a security unlock condition for unlocking protection of said secondary password for said secondary memory irrespective of presence or absence of a secondary password;

determining whether said security unlock condition is satisfied; and

unlocking the protection of said secondary password if said security unlock condition is satisfied.

35.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a startup password in a display screen.

36.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a secondary password in a display screen.

37.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a startup password with vocal sound.

38.(New) The method of processing information as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a secondary password with vocal sound.